

The Hip-Roof House
Haddonfield, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Hip-Roof House
Haddonfield, Camden County, New Jersey

Owner: George D. Vickers

Date of Erection: 1742

Architect:

Builder: Samuel Mickle

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame
construction; siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - hip with dormers

Historical Data:

The Hip-Roof House originally stood on the north side of King's Highway, west of the Indian King. About 1836 it was moved to its present location at 23 Ellis Street.

Samuel Mickle, the builder of the house, was the grandson of Archibald Mickle, the first member of that family in this country. The records of the Friends in Philadelphia indicate that he was originally

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a resident of Lesbrun, a town in the southern part of Antrim County, Ireland, and that he arrived in Philadelphia on June 2, 1682. He built the house in 1742 and sold it in 1752 to Elizabeth Estaugh.

Elizabeth Estaugh came to Haddonfield in 1702. She was one of the most important Quaker women of her day. The following extract from the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting records shows the place she had among the Friends:

".....She was endowed with great natural abilities, which being sanctified by the spirit of Christ were much improved, whereby she became qualified to act in the affairs of the church, and was a serviceable member having been clerk to the women's meeting for nearly 50 years greatly to satisfaction. She was a sincere sympathizer with the afflicted of a benevolent disposition, and in distributing to the poor, was desirous to do it in a way most profitable and desirable to them....."

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Historical Society of Haddonfield

Court Records searched by O. F.
Benjamin

Material collected by Frances Moffett and
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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
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7/28/37

HIP ROOF HOUSE

An addendum to
Hip Roof House
23 Ellis Street
Haddonfield, New Jersey

The following Addendum was prepared by Charles E. Peterson, FAIA,
after his examination of the structure.

Location: House now located at 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, New Jersey on the grounds of "Greenfield Hall."

Present Owner: Historical Society of Haddonfield.

Statement of Significance: The house, recently moved from 23 Ellis Street, now sits on a modern brick foundation over a cellar. The walls and ceilings were opened up in October 1967 at a number of places revealing unexpected construction details.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1742 (note: this date appears on measured drawings but Mr. Peterson states no documented date has been established for this structure. It may well be the first quarter of the 18th century.) Its workmanship suggests that the carpenter may not have been English.
2. Builder: Samuel Mickle.
3. Original plans, construction, etc.: First floor: it appears that the area under the gambrel was originally all one room with an exposed beam ceiling. The beams and the floorboards above are whitewashed. At a later date a "board partition," lathed and plastered on both sides, was installed, making two rooms. The details of the partition appear very old (split lath, handmade nails, soft yellow plaster with much hair), but cannot be as old as the main frame of the building.

4. Alterations and additions: Behind the gambrel roof section is a leanto (of which the walls are nogged with brick), also of considerable age. It has a standing seam metal roof. Still farther back is an addition to the leanto, probably of recent date. It contains a brick fireplace which is not too old.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Wall construction: The front wall shows beaded weatherboarding which is of an old type. Between it and the brick nogging is a vertical board sheathing, the exterior surface of which is not open to examination. The west wall, under semi-modern weatherboarding, was covered with vertical beaded boards painted gray, a treatment which is unique in this historian's experience.
2. Framing: The old house has large corner posts which project into the room. The door frames, fore and aft, do likewise because the curtain walls between are only the thickness of the nogging which is composed of brick on edge (2"+) laid in lime mortar. The interior plaster was applied directly to the brick.

The front and rear walls of this frame lean inward to such a degree that it must have been intentional. This characteristic has been observed in the early Mississippi Valley French houses.

A diagonal brace in the frame, revealed at one place, seemed very unusual and doesn't appear to be Anglo-American. The heavy, wide-spaced ceiling joists are reminiscent of early Dutch houses along the Hudson.

3. Chimneys: The present brick chimney in the oldest part of the house appears too narrow to be original. It was probably installed to accommodate a stove. The original chimney was probably left behind when the frame was first moved. When the floor and roof framing are carefully examined, the original size of the chimney may be revealed.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One remarkable door hung with straps and pintles is seen in the back of the building. It is of board and batten on the hinged side and has a type of panel on the other (a detail reportedly found also in several structures in Chester County, Pennsylvania).

- b. Windows and shutters: The front window frames may be old but the sash are of a later period. One window on the west side of the leanto seems to be made up of two bottom sash of a very old (fat-muntined) set. From their dimensions, they could have fitted the front windows. There are two very old sash (set in side-ways) on the rear wall. These were probably salvaged from another (and larger) building.

The two first floor windows on the west end of the gambrel - and their shutters - are of a 19th century type and appear to have been cut in at a relatively late date.

Only the shutters - with hardware - on the front wall appear to be of the 18th century.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Flooring: On the first floor some of the top flooring was removed alongside the fireplace revealing wide boards below.
2. Wall and ceiling finish: It is notable that the lower slope of the roof is lathed and plastered on the under side of the rafters down to the floor. Much later, a low, vertical curtain wall was installed which concealed the original wall which is still in place.
3. Doorways and doors: Some simple board and batten doors of hand-planed boards hung on small HL hinges with leather washers were found upstairs.

Prepared by Charles E. Peterson, FAIA
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
October 25, 1967